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## Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, the Reverend Charles Nestor, Manassas Assembly of God, Manassas, VA. We are pleased to have you with us.

### PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Rev. Charles Nestor, Manassas Assembly of God, Manassas, VA, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty and Holy God, we bow before You, recognizing Your lordship over us and Your loving kindness toward us. Thank You for Your faithfulness in spite of our faults, Your mercy and grace in times of disobedience to You, and Your generous provision always. You have blessed our Nation by bringing together the gifts of a diverse people and the benefits of individuality. We ask that You aid us in our continued quest to become one out of many. Remind us always of our deep dependence upon You and forgive us when in arrogance we forget You. May He who rises with healing in his wings bring healing to us and strengthen our conviction to love each other even as You have loved us. I ask You to grant wisdom to the men and women who labor for all of us in the Senate. May they know power beyond their limitations, as they put their trust in You. Teach us to understand that the greatest among us is servant to all. May this day find the embrace of Your constant presence and the smile of Your approval upon it. In the name that is above every name. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, the distinguished Senator from North Carolina, is recognized.

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Thank you, Mr. President.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1156, the D.C. appropriations bill. Under the previous order, the Senate will debate the Coats amendment No. 1249, regarding school vouchers, from 12 noon until 5 p.m. As a reminder to all Members, a cloture motion was filed last night on the Coats amendment, with the cloture vote scheduled to occur Tuesday, September 30 at 11 a.m. Following the debate on the Coats amendment, it is expected that the Senate will continue debating amendments to the D.C. appropriations bill throughout the evening. As Members are aware, this is the last of 13 appropriations bills that the Senate will consider. Therefore, all Members' cooperation is appreciated in notifying the managers of their intention to offer any amendments. We would like to have those as early as possible. In addition, the Senate may consider any appropriate conference reports as they become available. I thank all Members for their attention.

Mr. NICKLES addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGEL). The Senator from Oklahoma.

### OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL ACT OF 1997

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives on (S. 871) to establish the Oklahoma City National Memorial as a unit of the National Park System; to designate the Oklahoma City Memorial Trust, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

*Resolved*, That the bill from the Senate (S. 871) entitled "An Act to establish the Okla-

homa City National Memorial as a unit of the National Park System; to designate the Oklahoma City Memorial Trust, and for other purposes.", do pass with the following amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Oklahoma City National Memorial Act of 1997".*

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

*Congress finds that—*

(1) few events in the past quarter-century have rocked Americans' perception of themselves and their institutions, and brought together the people of our Nation with greater intensity than the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City;

(2) the resulting deaths of 168 people, some of whom were children, immediately touched thousands of family members whose lives will forever bear scars of having those precious to them taken away so brutally;

(3) suffering with such families are countless survivors, including children, who struggle not only with the suffering around them, but their own physical and emotional injuries and with shaping a life beyond April 19;

(4) such losses and struggles are personal and, since they resulted from so public an attack, they are also shared with a community, a Nation, and the world;

(5) the story of the bombing does not stop with the attack itself or with the many losses it caused. The responses of Oklahoma's public servants and private citizens, and those from throughout the Nation, remain as a testament to the sense of unity, compassion, even heroism, that characterized the rescue and recovery following the bombing;

(6) during the days immediately following the Oklahoma City bombing, Americans and people from around the world of all races, political philosophies, religions and walks of life responded with unprecedented solidarity and selflessness; and

(7) given the national and international impact and reaction, the Federal character of the site of the bombing, and the significant percentage of the victims and survivors who were Federal employees the Oklahoma City Memorial will be established, designed, managed and maintained to educate present and future generations, through a public/private partnership, to work together efficiently and respectfully in developing a National Memorial relating to all aspects of the April 19, 1995, bombing in Oklahoma City.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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